

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2010



**Attorney General
Wayne Stenehjem**

Report prepared by
Colleen Wertz
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Information Services Section

October 2011

The term "homicide," for purposes of this report, includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Homicide refers to the "willful killing of one human being by another." It does not include attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides or deaths caused by gross negligence.

HOMICIDE IN 2010

- In 2010, eleven homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 672,591, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 1.6 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Seven of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Ten of the victims were adults. "Adult" is defined as a person aged 18 or older. See Table 1 on page 2 for a summary of homicide incidents in 2010.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of six homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were six homicides in 2010 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 12.
- **Assailant Gender:** Ten of the eleven identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** All of the identified assailants were adults.
- While tribal law enforcement agencies and any other federal law enforcement entities in the state do not participate in the state UCR program, every effort is made to include all homicide incidents occurring within the state's borders.

**Table 1
Summary of Homicide Incidents
North Dakota, 2010**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
2/28/2010 Ward County	44	F	39	M	Strangulation	Ex-Spouse	Argument Domestic Violence
2/28/2010 Wishek, McIntosh County	30	M	27	M	Personal Weapon	Acquaintances	Argument
3/12/2010 Bismarck	30	F	27	M	Personal Weapon	Wife	Argument Domestic Violence
3/18/2010 Richland County	58	M	46	M	Shotgun	Acquaintances	Argument
4/2/2010 Dickinson	64	F	65	M	Shotgun	Wife	Domestic Violence Murder/Suicide
6/23/2010 Grand Forks County	59	M	45	M	Blunt Object	Brother	Argument Domestic Violence
7/17/2010 Minot	20	M	24	M	Handgun	Acquaintances	Argument
10/2/2010 Mandan	22	M	25	M	Handgun	Stranger	Argument
10/17/2010 Pembina County	19	M	25	M	Rifle	Acquaintances	Argument
10/18/2010 Williston	16	F	18	M	Firearm	Former Girlfriend	Domestic Violence Murder/Suicide
12/30/2010 Standing Rock Reservation	23	M	26	F	Knife	Boyfriend	Argument Domestic Violence

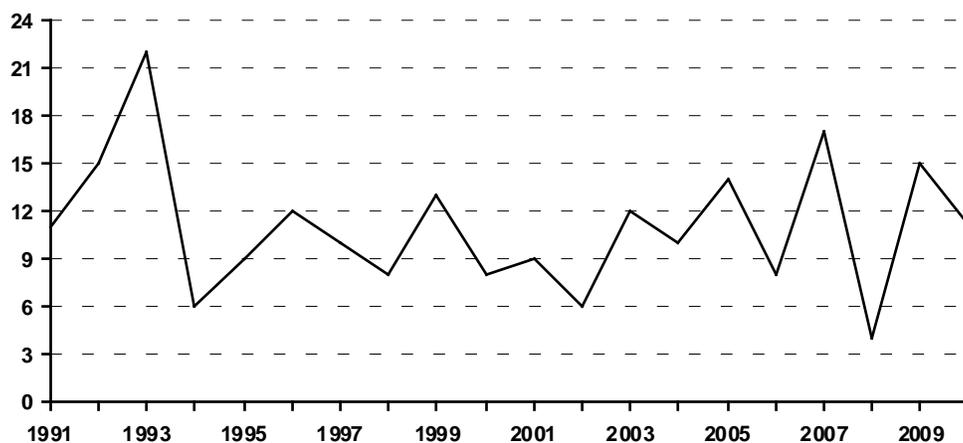
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1991-2010.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
1991	11	635,000	1.7
1992	15	636,000	2.4
1993	22	635,000	3.5
1994	6	638,000	0.9
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	8	638,000	1.3
1999	13	634,000	2.1
2000	8	642,200	1.2
2001	9	634,450	1.4
2002	6	634,110	0.9
2003	12	634,000	1.9
2004	10	634,500	1.6
2005	14	637,000	2.2
2006	8	636,000	1.3
2007	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6
2009	15	647,000	2.3
2010	11	672,591	1.6

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1991-2010



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Fifty-eight percent of the 220 total homicide victims during the period 1991-2010 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Male	Female	Total
1991	4	7	11
1992	10	5	15
1993	15	7	22
1994	2	4	6
1995	6	3	9
1996	6	6	12
1997	7	3	10
1998	6	2	8
1999	9	4	13
2000	4	4	8
2001	7	2	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	6	6	12
2004	7	3	10
2005	8	6	14
2006	4	4	8
2007	7	10	17
2008	3	1	4
2009	7	8	15
2010	7	4	11
Total 1991-2010	127 (58%)	93 (42%)	220

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 220 homicides during the period 1991-2010, 81 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Thirty-seven percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 21 and 40. See Table 5 on the following page for information regarding age and gender of victims.

**Table 4
Homicide Victims
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1991	3	8	11
1992	3	12	15
1993	7	15	22
1994		6	6
1995	2	7	9
1996		12	12
1997		10	10
1998	2	6	8
1999	2	11	13
2000		8	8
2001		9	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	2	10	12
2004	3	7	10
2005	2	12	14
2006	2	6	8
2007	4	13	17
2008	2	2	4
2009	4	11	15
2010	1	10	11
Total 1991-2010	41	179	220

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	11	10	21
01-05	3	2	5
06-10	1	3	4
11-15	1	1	2
16-20	15	10	25
21-25	14	3	17
26-30	15	8	23
31-35	9	8	17
36-40	15	10	25
41-45	7	11	18
46-50	13	11	24
51-55	6	2	8
56-60	4	2	6
61-65	1	3	4
Over 65	12	9	21
Total 1991-2010	127	93	220

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-one percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1991-2010 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be a long gun than a handgun.
- Thirty-six of the 220 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

**Table 6
Weapons of Homicide
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
1991		4	1	1		5	11
1992	2	6	4	2	1		15
1993	6	4	5	2	2	3	22
1994	1	2				3	6
1995	2	2	1	2		2	9
1996	3	4	4			1	12
1997		1	1	2	4	2	10
1998		3	2			3	8
1999	1	4	3	1		4	13
2000	2	1	2	1	2		8
2001	2	3	1	1	2		9
2002	1	1			2	2	6
2003	4	7			1		12
2004		5		1	1	3	10
2005	2	1	1	2	5	3	14
2006	1		4		2	1	8
2007	4		2	1	6	4	17
2008			2		2		4
2009	3	3	2	2	3	2	15
2010	2	4	1	1	3		11
Total 1991-2010	36	55	36	19	36	38	220

- Firearms were used in 22 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-six percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-seven percent of homicides of males and 47 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Seventeen percent of homicides of males and 15 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

**Table 7
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	34	36
Other Firearm	7	48	55
Knife		36	36
Blunt Instrument	1	18	19
Personal Weapon	16	20	36
Other or Unknown	15	23	38
Total 1991-2010	41	179	220

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	23	13	36
Other Firearm	24	31	55
Knife	22	14	36
Blunt Instrument	16	3	19
Personal Weapon	22	14	36
Other or Unknown	20	18	38
Total 1991-2010	127	93	220

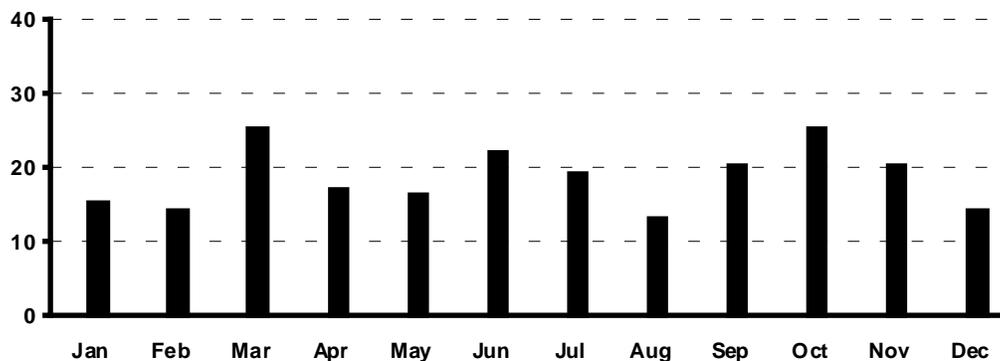
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1991-2010, the months of March and October had the highest number of homicide deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Table 9
Deaths Due to Homicide
By Month, 1991-2010

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	15	6.8 %
February	14	6.4
March	25	11.4
April	17	7.7
May	16	7.3
June	22	10.0
July	19	8.6
August	13	5.9
September	20	9.1
October	25	11.4
November	20	9.1
December	14	6.4
Total 1991-2010	220	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1991-2010



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

For purposes of this report, domestic violence deaths include those involving a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, persons related by blood or marriage, persons in a present or former dating relationship, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons on premises when a domestic incident occurs, and romantic triangle situations.

- For the period 1991-2010, 53 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1991-2010**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
1991	5	4	2	11
1992	11	4		15
1993	11	11		22
1994	4	1	1	6
1995	3	6		9
1996	7	5		12
1997	2	8		10
1998	6	2		8
1999	7	6		13
2000	6	1	1	8
2001	2	7		9
2002	4	1	1	6
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	3	1	8
2007	7	9	1	17
2008		4		4
2009	12	3		15
2010	6	5		11
Total 1991-2010	117	95	8	220

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-seven percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 19 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-five percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 37 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		17	2	17
Other Firearm	7	35		13
Knife		19		16
Blunt Instrument	1	6		12
Personal Weapon	11	7	5	12
Other or Unknown	8	6	6	12
Total 1991-2010	27	90	13	82

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	6	11	17	2
Other Firearm	13	29	11	2
Knife	11	8	10	6
Blunt Instrument	4	3	12	
Personal Weapon	6	12	16	1
Other or Unknown	7	7	8	10
Total 1991-2010	47	70	74	21

CLEARANCE RATES

- Cases may be "cleared by arrest" of an assailant, or "cleared exceptionally," if a physical arrest cannot be made for reasons beyond the control of law enforcement. An example of an exceptional clearance would be a case in which the assailant committed suicide after killing someone.
- "Clearances" should not be interpreted as "convictions." The information regarding clearances, collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the UCR program considers the case cleared. UCR data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1991 to 2010 is 96 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
1991	9	11	82%	67%
1992	15	15	100	65
1993	22	22	100	66
1994	5	6	83	64
1995	9	9	100	65
1996	12	12	100	67
1997	10	10	100	66
1998	8	8	100	69
1999	13	13	100	69
2000	7	8	88	63
2001	9	9	100	63
2002	5	6	83	64
2003	12	12	100	62
2004	10	10	100	63
2005	12	14	86	62
2006	7	8	88	61
2007	16	17	94	61
2008	4	4	100	64
2009	15	15	100	67
2010	11	11	100	Not Available

* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1991-2010, 89 percent of the 229 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eight homicides during 1991-2010 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Male	Female	Total
1991	8		8 *
1992	11	3	14
1993	17	3	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	3	8
1999	9	2	11
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	11		11
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	13	1	14 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	14	3	17 *
2008	6	1	7
2009	15	2	17
2010	10	1	11
Total 1991-2010	203 (89%)	26 (11%)	229

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

- Ninety percent of the total 229 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 229 assailants identified by law enforcement, 65 percent were between the ages of 16 and 35. See Table 16 on the following page for information on age and gender of identified assailants.

Table 15
Identified Homicide Assailants
Juvenile and Adult
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1991	1	7	8 *
1992	2	12	14
1993	3	17	20
1994		5	5 *
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	7	8
1999		11	11
2000		8	8 *
2001		11	11
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		14	14 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	3	14	17 *
2008		7	7
2009		17	17
2010		11	11
Total 1991-2010	24 (10%)	205 (90%)	229

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 16
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	11	2	13
16-20	39	4	43
21-25	49	5	54
26-30	27	4	31
31-35	17	3	20
36-40	17	3	20
41-45	12	3	15
46-50	10	1	11
51-55	4	1	5
56-60	8		8
61-65	3		3
Over 65	6		6
Total 1991-2010	203	26	229

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	35	36
Other Firearm	10	43	53
Knife	3	42	45
Blunt Instrument	3	21	24
Personal Weapon	4	35	39
Other or Unknown	3	29	32
Total 1991-2010	24	205	229

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	35	1	36
Other Firearm	50	3	53
Knife	35	10	45
Blunt Instrument	24		24
Personal Weapon	35	4	39
Other or Unknown	24	8	32
Total 1991-2010	203	26	229

- Forty-nine percent of assailants identified by law enforcement were involved in domestic violence incidents. See Table 19 below.
- Assailants were more likely to use firearms in domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Eighty-one percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 45 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
1991	4	4	8 *
1992	8	6	14
1993	8	12	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	4	15	19
1996	7	8	15
1997	2	7	9
1998	6	2	8
1999	6	5	11
2000	6	2	8 *
2001	2	9	11
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	7	14 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	9	8	17 *
2008		7	7
2009	14	3	17
2010	6	5	11
Total 1991-2010	113 (49%)	116 (51%)	229

* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

Table 20
Weapon Use by Identified Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	19	17	36
Other Firearm	33	20	53
Knife	19	26	45
Blunt Instrument	7	17	24
Personal Weapon	19	20	39
Other or Unknown	16	16	32
Total 1991-2010	113	116	229

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		19	1	16
Other Firearm	1	32	9	11
Knife	2	17	1	25
Blunt Instrument		7	3	14
Personal Weapon	2	17	2	18
Other or Unknown	1	15	2	14
Total 1991-2010	6	107	18	98

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1991-2010

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	18	1	17	
Other Firearm	30	3	20	
Knife	11	8	24	2
Blunt Instrument	7		17	
Personal Weapon	16	3	19	1
Other or Unknown	10	6	14	2
Total 1991-2010	92	21	111	5